

The Hartford Courant

parade

THE FIRST LADY

*An Interview
by Dotson Rader*

AMERICA'S
NEWEST WORLD'S FAIR
by Herbert Kupferberg



Walter Scott's personality parade

Want the facts? Opinion! Truth? Write Walter Scott, 140 N. Hamilton Dr., Beverly Hills, Cal. 90210. Full name will be used unless otherwise requested. Volume of mail makes personal replies impossible.



Lovers: Arnold Schwarzenegger and Maria Shriver

Q. Maria Shriver, daughter of Sargent and Eunice Kennedy Shriver—is she married to or just living with muscleman Arnold Schwarzenegger? And what does Maria's grandmother, Rose Kennedy, have to say about such a pairing?—D.D., McLean, Va.

A. Maria Shriver and Arnold Schwarzenegger have not, at this writing, sanctified their togetherness with matrimony. Mrs. Kennedy does not try to supervise the love lives of her grandchildren.

Q. The children of the late Hollywood film star Errol Flynn have filed a \$25 million libel suit against author Charles Higham. They allege that Higham's book "Errol Flynn, the Untold Story" besmirches their family by asserting that Flynn was both a homosexual and a Nazi sympathizer. My question is this: Can you libel a dead person?—Vic Nelson, Seattle, Wash.

A. Legally, one cannot libel the dead. But Melvin Belli, the lawyer who is handling the suit for Flynn's daughters Rory and Deirdre, contends that the law against relatives of a deceased person suing for libel should be ignored in this case, because the Flynn family was sullied by the Higham book. Should the case go to trial, there is the possibility of writer Truman Capote testifying about his relationship with Flynn and of other witnesses offering sensational testimony. Flynn was one Hollywood star whose life was truly scandal-ridden.

Q. How many times has Barbara Walters been married? Was she ever married or engaged to Lawrence Welk?—Helen Walsh, Golden, Col.

A. TV commentator Barbara Walters, 50, has been married twice, but never to Lawrence Welk, 76.

Q. Who were the French doctors who for years treated the late Shah of Iran for cancer without any of the intelligence services of the world learning about his terminal disease?—T.L. Simmons, Kansas City, Mo.

A. The most famous is Dr. Jean Bernard of the Hospital St. Louis in Paris, where he is head of the Institute for Research on Leukemia and Lymphoma. Another physician who regularly treated the Shah for his lymphoma is Dr. Georges Flandrin, also of Paris.

The late Mohammad Reza Pahlavi insisted that his French doctors keep his illness a secret, in fact prevented them from making definitive diagnoses as the disease progressed. He was fearful that disclosure of the truth would lead to internecine political warfare in Iran and his possible overthrow. Despite the secrecy of his physical condition, he was toppled from power anyway.



Dusko Popov in 1974

Q. Is the James Bond character in the books by Ian Fleming based on a real person, or is James Bond a purely fictional secret agent?—Maxine Proctor, Medford, Ore.

A. Ian Fleming is said to have based his James Bond character on the life of Dusko Popov, a key double agent for the British during World War II who was under the charge of Fleming, himself an intelligence agent. Popov, who died in France at age 70 earlier this year, was the son of a wealthy Yugoslav family. He worked for British Intelligence in London and the U.S. under the code name "Tricycle." Popov infiltrated the Nazi intelligence network and reportedly warned the U.S. of the Japanese attack six months before Pearl Harbor, but J. Edgar Hoover refused to believe him. In his memoirs, "Spy/Counter-spy," published in 1974, Popov also claimed that he was instrumental in convincing the Germans in 1944 that the Allied invasion of Europe would take place at the Pas de Calais, thereby diverting German divisions away from the actual landing sites in Normandy. Popov, who became a British citizen after the war, is survived by a wife and four sons. His widow, the second Mrs. Popov, lived with him for 13 years before learning of her husband's wartime espionage exploits—and then only through his book.

Q. Henry Fonda is said to be very sick. What's wrong with him—cancer?—Helen Beck, Davenport, Iowa.

A. No, it's his heart, which is 76 years old.

Q. Was the late Elvis Presley ever sent to jail on a forgery conviction?—D.L., Jackson, Miss.

A. No, but his father, Vernon Presley, and his uncle, Travis Smith, were indicted and convicted for check-kiting on May 25, 1938, and sentenced to a three-year term on a prison farm in Parchman, Miss. Vernon Presley was released Jan. 4, 1941, at which time his son Elvis was almost 6. The felony conviction made Vernon Presley draft-exempt in World War II. It's a segment of their family history the Presleys understandably preferred not to disclose.

Q. Rita Mae Brown, the lesbian writer whose love affair with tennis star Martina Navratilova ended so sadly a few months ago—what is her background? My understanding is that she has been paid \$1 million to write a book called "30-Love," detailing the whole affair. Shouldn't it be called "Dirty Love"?—A.T., Houston, Tex.

A. Rita Mae Brown, 36—born out of wedlock in Hanover, Pa., and reared in poverty in Ft. Lauderdale, Fla.—was educated at the University of Florida and New York University. She is the author of five novels: "Rubyfruit Jungle," "In Her Time," "Six of One," "Southern Discomfort" and "Sudden Death." The last concerns a lesbian tennis pro who may or may not be modeled on Navratilova, whom Brown claims to have lived with and loved for almost two years. To date, no one has offered Brown \$1 million for a book called "30 or Dirty Love." Brown, 5-foot-4 and 110 pounds, is a dark-eyed, beautiful lesbian activist who used to live in Los Angeles. Last year, she and Navratilova bought an estate near Charlottesville, Va. At this writing, it's for sale.



Rita Mae Brown



Martina Navratilova

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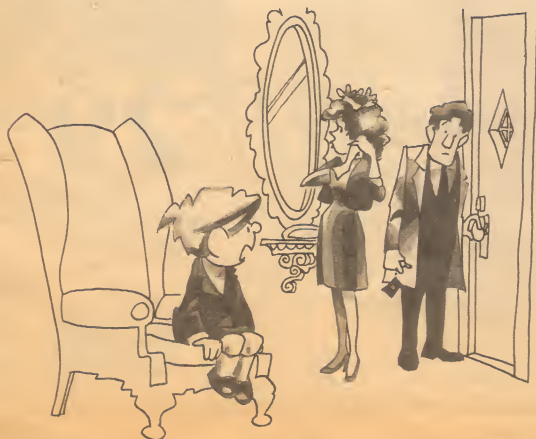
by Bill Hoest



"A second opinion? Sure...I'll call Igor."



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